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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 330
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SOLICITATION FOR PROPOSALS

(Released on January 22, 2007)

The State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) announces the availability of funding for the following project and welcomes proposals from all interested parties.

PROJECT TITLE: Hawaii Day-Use Mooring Buoy System Siting and Procedures Manual

PROJECT SUPERVISORS:

Dan Polhemus, Administrator, DAR
Athline M. Clark, Special Projects Program Manager, DAR

CONTACT:

Bin C. Li, Contracts Specialist, DAR, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330, Honolulu, HI 96813,
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FUNDING:

Funding of approximately \$25,000 will be provided under the 2004 NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, State of Hawaii Management Grant (NA04NOS4190111). The grant is authorized under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and is composed of thirteen projects that together represent all local action strategies and other program priorities. This grant supports strategic planning efforts, awareness-raising activities, and scientific research with direct management applications. Key outcomes of the work include greater capacity to manage coral reefs, increased understanding of reef ecosystems, and substantial progress towards implementing all local action strategies.

Additional match from the selected provider is required. See Qualifications below.

TERM OF PROJECT: From March 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:

Please submit your proposal via e-mail to the contact person by 5 p.m., Monday, February 5, 2007.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The provider will be responsible for developing a manual that outlines the process for determining appropriate sites for day-use mooring buoys within the Hawaii day-use mooring buoy system. This includes: procedures for the installation, maintenance, and record-keeping of these buoys, criteria for siting buoys, and the process for obtaining consensus and input into priority sites.

The Hawaii Day-Use Mooring System is an innovative public-private partnership protecting coral reefs from anchor damage at popular sites. The system currently has approximately 200 buoys installed around the State. These buoys enable boaters to tie up at popular recreational sites rather than dropping anchor on the coral reefs. In the past, these buoys have been sited in locations already experiencing heavy use by marine tourism operators and recreational users. DAR has used input from a broad spectrum of ocean users, community groups, and government agencies in the identification process for proposed new mooring sites. However, more recently, there has been concern among some resource managers that the use attracted by mooring buoys may negatively impact coral reef resources and that greater care needs to be used in selecting appropriate sites.

While DAR have followed a consultative process to ensure that the existing mooring buoys were sited in appropriate areas in a manner to mitigate damage to the natural resources, this process has never been formalized or written down. By developing a siting and procedures manual, DAR will start to formulate criteria for siting mooring buoys and procedures for their installation and maintenance, in close consultation with resource managers and users, mooring buoy experts, and community members.

The manual will outline criteria for deciding where moorings should be installed, given physical (e.g., substrate, depth), ecological (resource sensitivity, threatened and endangered species), community, and management considerations. Consideration must also be given to the number and size of boats currently anchoring in an area and the anticipated future use of the area. This manual will assist resource managers in evaluating a range of factors when considering a potential site for a new mooring buoy.

In addition, the manual will describe the process for securing required Federal and, if necessary, State permits for new day-use moorings and identify information required for permit applications. This process requires close coordination with DLNR-DOBOR, normally the applicant agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the permitting agency.

The manual will also describe the accepted procedures for installing and maintaining the day use mooring buoys, and standardized record-keeping practices to document both the installation and ongoing maintenance of the buoys. A database template for recording buoy installation information and a maintenance database shall be provided (both in paper and electronic format), along with instructions for their use.

Finally, as a separate document, the provider shall provide a list of priority sites around the State to be included in a future Army Corps permit application.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Thirty (30) printed copies and one digital copy (in PDF format) of the "Hawaii Day-use mooring buoy system siting and procedures manual", which shall include the following in minimum:
 - Procedures for installation, maintenance and record-keeping of day-use mooring buoys,
 - Siting criteria,
 - Process for obtaining input and consensus into determining priority sites, and
 - Process for securing Federal and State permits.
2. List of proposed priority sites around the State.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The provider will be selected through an evaluation process that incorporates the following qualifications requirements. The relative weight for each of these qualifications is listed as well. DAR will use a numerical grading formula to evaluate each proposal provided that all the minimum qualifications are met.

Individuals and private organizations (both for-profit and non-profit) may submit bids if the following minimum qualifications are met prior to such submission:

1. (25%) Significant experience and knowledge associated with the statewide day-use mooring buoy system,
2. (15%) Understanding of relevant federal and State legislations and regulations in marine resources management, and specifically in boating and buoy practices,
3. (15%) Familiarity with issues concerning the management and conservation of the near-shore marine resources in Hawaii,
4. (15%) Ability to conduct project on each of the major islands in the State with personnel knowledgeable of regional buoy and ocean use practices,
5. (10%) A minimum of 1 to 1 match of the award amount from other contributions and in-kind sources, and
6. (10%) Financial solvency (A completed W-9 form and Certificate of Tax Clearance from the State of Hawaii required upon selection and prior to award).

Proposals should also address the following desirable qualifications if possible:

7. (5%) A history of successful completion of governmental projects involving the use of federal funds, and
8. (5%) Working relationships with resource managers and users, mooring buoy experts, and community members on all major islands.

STATEMENT:

DLNR and DAR reserve the right to incorporate or not incorporate in the State's application for federal grants any recommendations presented in response to this notice. Neither DLNR or DAR or any interested party has any right or obligation under this notice unless a provider is selected and all proper contractual documents are executed.

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